

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **STILWELL HOPEFUL ABOUT FUTURE OF BOONVILLE CONNECTOR**

INDIANAPOLIS – After meeting with state and local officials, State Rep. Russ Stilwell (D-Boonville) said today that he is very hopeful that construction of a bypass around Boonville will be a high priority for completion within the next decade.

Stilwell's optimism came after the lawmaker met with new Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Commissioner Tom Sharp. Also in attendance at the meeting set up by Stilwell's office were Boonville Mayor Pam Hendrickson and City Council Members Bob Barnett and Dennis Schreve.

"Since INDOT has chosen to completely alter its system to determine which road projects will be completed in a more timely fashion, it has been left to local officials to do the lion's share of the work in stating the need for road improvements and new construction," Stilwell said. "With the assistance of Mayor Hendrickson and Councilmen Barnett and Schreve, I feel we were able to make a strong case for the need of this bypass and its importance in the future economic and residential growth for Boonville."

Also known as the Boonville Connector, the project calls for construction of a bypass around the community to relieve traffic congestion.

"Everyone agrees that something has to be done to reduce the wear and tear being caused on the main thoroughfares within Boonville's city limits," Stilwell said. "Current traffic counts estimate that around 250 coal trucks per hour and 30,000 vehicles a day pass through the Boonville area on a daily basis."

Hendrickson added, "You can imagine the heavy toll that volume of traffic has on roadways. By constructing a new bypass, we can make it easier to connect coal trucks with their destination and easier for those living and working in Boonville to travel every day. It also will help reduce the need for extensive road repairs to those surfaces that are being worn down by heavy truck traffic."

Stilwell said Sharp appeared to understand the need for the project, but the legislator stressed the importance of area residents providing their own support.

"INDOT is still in the process of finalizing its priorities, and it always benefits the cause when the general public takes interest in a project that can have long-term benefits," Stilwell said. "That's why I encourage area people to register their support by contacting INDOT, either by calling 317-232-5533, e-mailing the agency at [www.IN.gov/dot/contact](http://www.IN.gov/dot/contact) or writing to 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room IGCN 755, Indianapolis, IN 46204."